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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,048	12/30/2003	Nikki White	LGPL.111216	6788
5251	7590	03/01/2005	EXAMINER	
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON LLP 2555 GRAND BLVD KANSAS CITY,, MO 64108			EDELL, JOSEPH F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,048

Applicant(s)

WHITE ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph F Edell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/06/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, and 18-21 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. claim 5, line 2, "bottom to top" should read --top to bottom--;
- b. claim 7, line 2 "top to bottom" should read --bottom to top--;
- c. claim 8, line 10, "second set" should read --the second set--;
- d. claim 8, line 11, "on their respective frame members" should read --with respect to each other--;
- e. claim 15, line 4, "attachment means" should read --first means for attaching--;
- f. claim 15, lines 7-8, "attachment means" should read --second means for attaching--;
- g. claim 15, line 10, "the first attachment means and the second attachment means" should read --the first means for attaching and the second means for attaching--;
- h. claim 16, line 1, "the attachment means" should read --each of the first and second means for attaching--;
- i. claim 18, line 2, "first attachment means" should read --the first means for attaching--;
- j. claim 19, line 2, "first attachment means" should read --the first means for attaching--;

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k. claim 20, line 2, "second attachment means" should read --the second means for attaching--;

l. claim 21, line 2, "second attachment means" should read --the second means for attaching--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 18,375 to Bailey.

Bailey discloses an attachment system that includes all the limitations recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 20, and 21. Bailey shows an attachment system having a first frame member C (Fig. 7) and/or a pair of side panels (Fig. 2), a first set of mounting brackets f (Fig. 7) coupled to the first frame member and/or each side panel and including left and right mounting brackets, a seat portion B (Fig. 6) with a second frame member (Fig. 6) and/or first and second sides (Fig. 6), and a second set of mounting brackets e (Fig. 6) coupled to the second frame member and/or each of the first and second sides and including left and right mounting brackets wherein the sets of mounting brackets each include a mounting flange (Fig. 6), (Fig. 8) and a tapered

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section (Fig. 6), (Fig. 8) with a raised portion (Fig. 6), (Fig. 8) and a mating surface (Fig. 6), (Fig. 8), the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets taper from bottom to top, and the sets of mounting brackets are positioned on their respective frame members so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project inwardly, the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project outwardly, and the first and second sets of mounting brackets are first and second means of attaching.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,914,118 to Sawyers.

Sawyers discloses an attachment system that includes all the limitations recited in claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 20. Sawyers shows an attachment system having a first frame member 17 (Fig. 2) and/or a pair of side panels 16,17 (Fig. 1), a first set of mounting brackets 40 (Fig. 5), 75 (Fig. 8) coupled to the first frame member and/or each side panel and including left and right mounting brackets, a seat portion 12 (Fig. 1) with a second frame member (Fig. 2) and/or first and second sides (Fig. 1), and a second set of mounting brackets 50 (Fig. 5), 85 (Fig. 8) coupled to the second frame member and/or each of the first and second sides and including left and right mounting brackets wherein the sets of mounting brackets each include a mounting flange 44,53 (Fig. 5), (Fig. 8) and a tapered section 47,57 (Fig. 5), 78,86 (Fig. 8) with a

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raised portion 46,56 (Fig. 5), (Fig. 8) and a mating surface 48,58 (Fig. 5), (Fig. 8), the sets of mounting brackets are positioned on their respective frame members so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project inwardly, the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project outwardly, and the first and second sets of mounting brackets are first and second means of attaching.

5: Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,241,317 B1 to Wu.

Wu discloses an attachment system that includes all the limitations recited in claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-20. Wu shows an attachment system having a first frame member 5 (Fig. 2) and/or a pair of side panels, a first set of mounting brackets 80 (Fig. 2) coupled to the first frame member and/or each side panel and including left and right mounting brackets, a seat portion 3 (Fig. 2) with a second frame member (Fig. 2) and/or first and second sides, and a second set of mounting brackets 70 (Fig. 2) coupled to the second frame member and/or each of the first and second sides and including left and right mounting brackets wherein the sets of mounting brackets each include a mounting flange 800 (Fig. 5), 700 (Fig. 4) and a tapered section 801 (Fig. 5), 701 (Fig. 4) with a raised portion 802 (Fig. 5), 704 (Fig. 4) and a mating surface 803,804 (Fig. 5), 703 (Fig. 4), the left and right mounting brackets are mirror images of one another, the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets taper from top to bottom, the sets of

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mounting brackets are positioned on their respective frame members so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project inwardly, the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project outwardly, and the first and second sets of mounting brackets are first and second means of attaching.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to attachment systems:

U.S. Pat. No. 3,669,494 to Lohmeyer	U.S. Pat. No. 3,989,298 to Cycowicz et al.
U.S. Pat. No. 5,135,284 to Crum	U.S. Pat. No. 5,224,760 to Gibbs
U.S. Pat. No. 5,265,939 to Self et al.	U.S. Pat. No. 5,727,849 to Nelson

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (703) 605-1216. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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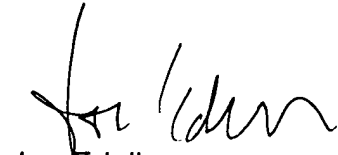
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Edell", is positioned above the printed name.

Joe Edell

February 25, 2005